City of Lafayette
Staff Report
City Council

Meeting Date: April 28, 2025

To: City Council

From: Niroop K. Srivatsa

Subject: **Bills of local importance and legislative matrix**

The legislation committee met on April 16th and submits the following recommendations to the City Council -

1. AB 300 (Lackey): Fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal
   Recommendation: Support
2. AB 307 (Petrie-Norris): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, And Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Fire Camera Mapping System
   Recommendation: Support
3. AB 650 (Papan): Planning and Zoning: Housing Element: Regional Housing Needs Allocation
   Recommendation: Support
4. AB 712 (Wicks): Housing Reform Laws: Enforcement Actions: Fines and Penalties
   Recommendation: Oppose
5. SB 90 (Seyarto): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Grants: Improvements to Public Evacuation Routes: Mobile Rigid Water Storage: Electrical Generators
   Recommendation: Support
6. SB 233 (Seyarto): Regional Housing Need: Determination: Consultation with Councils of Governments
   Recommendation: Support
7. SB 607 (Wiener): CEQA: Categorical Exemptions: Infill Projects
   Recommendation: Watch
8. Bill matrix
   Recommendation: Receive and file

The committee also considered and expressed concerns about SB 315 (Grayson) which would severely limit local government's ability to require appropriate parkland dedication or fees from new developments. The concerns were relayed to Senator Grayson's office and staff from the Lamorinda jurisdictions met with his staff to discuss these concerns. We were informed that SB 315 is now a two-year bill and would not be moving in 2025. Staff will continue to work with the Senator's office for the remainder of the year.

Attachments

Bills of local importance

Bill matrix

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: **City of Lafayette**

From: **Townsend Public Affairs**
Casey Elliott, Vice President

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: **Bill Analysis: Assembly Bill 300 (Lackey)**

The official text of AB 300 (Lackey) can be found here, AB 300 requires a majority vote for passage.

AB 300 (Lackey): Fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal.

Summary

AB 300 requires the State Fire Marshall (SFM) to identify and review lands within state responsibility areas (SRA) as fire hazard severity zones (FHSZ), and identify and review of areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high FHSZs at least every eight years.

Status

AB 300 (Lackey) passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on March 24, and is pending a hearing in the Assembly Emergency Management Committee.

Author's Statement

Assembly Member Lackey has stated the following regarding AB 300, *"Given the recent devastating wildfires, it is crucial for the State Fire Marshal to assess and review fire hazard severity zones across the state. Not only do insurance companies rely on these maps to assess homeowner insurance risks, but local governments use them to determine evacuation routes. AB 300 will help ensure our communities are more accurately represented in assess wildfire risks by having these high fire hazard severity zones updated on a fixed schedule."*

Support and Opposition

Current support for AB 300 (Lackey) includes the California Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Districts Association of California.

There is no official opposition for AB 300.

Recommended Position

Support

AB 300 (Lackey) offers a balanced, proactive approach to wildfire preparedness and enables local agencies to develop customized wildfire risk reduction plans, improving public safety while safeguarding environmental resources

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: **City of Lafayette**

From: **Townsend Public Affairs**
Casey Elliott, Vice President

Date: April 16, 2025

Subject: **Bill Analysis: Assembly Bill 307 (Petrie-Norris)**

The official text of AB 307 (Petrie-Norris) can be found here, AB 307 requires a majority vote for passage.

AB 307 (Petrie-Norris): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, And Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Fire Camera Mapping System

Summary

AB 307 requires $10 million of the $25 million made available by the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4) for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to be allocated for purposes of the ALERTCalifornia fire camera mapping system.

ALERTCalifornia Background

On July 10, 2023, CAL FIRE announced it joined forces with the University of California San Diego's ALERTCalifornia Program to enhance wildfire response with artificial intelligence (AI) with the goal of improving firefighting capabilities and response times. The AI tool was rolled out to all units in the late summer of 2023 and analyzes camera feeds across California for anomalies, alerting Emergency Command Centers and first responders to potential fires, sometimes even before 911 is notified.

As of July 2024, ALERTCalifornia uses 1,087 high-definition, pan-tilt zoom cameras strategically deployed throughout California. These cameras create a 24-hour surveillance network equipped with near-infrared night vision, enabling efficient monitoring of active wildfires and other disasters. ALERTCalifornia cameras can perform 360-degree sweeps approximately every two minutes, providing clear visuals of up to 60 miles on a clear day and 120 miles on a clear night.

CAL FIRE has invested a little more than $20 million in the ALERTCalifornia program over the past four years and has committed an additional $3.5 million in the coming years.

The program also compiles data to enhance scientific understanding of fire-prone environments. Technologies like LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) are employed for data collection, providing detailed information on biomass and carbon estimation.

ALERTCalifornia sponsored LiDAR data acquisition from NV5, a leading provider of geospatial software and services, of the Palisades Fire and the Eaton Fire burn areas. The provisional LiDAR data was collected by NV5 January 21- January 22, 2025, and can be used to analyze the fire's impact and provide insights for damage assessment, which is critical for recovery and rebuilding efforts, as well as for better understanding potential hazards due to debris from the fire.

Status

AB 307 (Petrie-Norris) is pending a hearing date in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, the measure was originally scheduled to be heard in Committee on March 24, and was cancelled at the request of the author.

Author's Statement

Assembly Member Petrie-Norris has stated the following regarding AB 307, *"With the frequency and severity of wildfires in California increasing at an alarming rate over the last decade, remote sensing technology has never been more essential to the development of effective and time-critical wildfire prevention, protection, mitigation, and response plans. Since 2001, the ALERTCalifornia Wildfire Mapping System has proven to be an efficient and effective resource for our fire safety teams, providing enhanced wildfire detection and response in our state, and should be an integral part of our emergency fire response strategy."*

Support and Opposition

Current support for AB 307 (Petrie-Norris) includes the California Forestry Association and NV5.

There is no official opposition for AB 307.

Recommended Position

Support

AB 307 (Petrie-Norris) enhances public safety infrastructure, protecting residents and property, and can reduce the economic and environmental impacts of wildfires.

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: **City of Lafayette**

From: **Townsend Public Affairs**
Casey Elliott, Vice President

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: **Bill Analysis: Assembly Bill 650 (Papan)**

The official text of AB 650 (Papan) can be found here, AB 650 requires a majority vote for passage.

AB 650 (Papan): Planning and Zoning: Housing Element: Regional Housing Needs Allocation

Summary

AB 650 (Papan) aims to amend the Planning and Zoning Law concerning the housing element and regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) process. This measure seeks to adjust timelines and procedures to enhance the effectiveness of housing planning across the State.

Key provisions include:

- Extending the timeline for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to determine existing and projected housing needs for each region from 24 to 30 months prior to the scheduled revision of the housing element.

- Proposes that HCD meet and consult with councils of governments regarding the assumptions and methodology for determining regional housing needs at least 32 months before the scheduled revision, an extension from the current 26 months.

- Mandates that councils of governments develop a proposed methodology for distributing regional housing needs at least 30 months before a housing element revision and distribute a draft allocation of regional housing needs at least 24 months prior to the revision.

- Requires HCD to identify specific deficiencies in a housing element if they determine it is not in compliance. HCD would be required to provide the exact language or analysis it expects jurisdictions to include to address those deficiencies.

- Introduces a limited exemption from the "builder's remedy" while HCD is actively reviewing a jurisdiction's updated housing element.

- Requires HCD to develop a standardized format for reporting on efforts taken to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) on or before December 31, 2026.

Status

AB 650 (Papan) is scheduled for a hearing date in the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee on April 24.

Support and Opposition

AB 650 is sponsored by CalCities.

As the committee analysis for the measure has not yet been published, there is no official list of support or opposition for AB 650 yet available.

Recommended Position

Support

AB 650 (Papan) provides important updates to the Planning and Zoning Law, including extending timelines for determining housing need and consultation between the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and councils of governments. These adjustments will give stakeholders more time to engage in meaningful planning and analysis which will lead to more reasonable and achievable housing goals. These changes recognize the complexity of local planning and give jurisdictions more time to prepare and respond to state-mandated housing obligations.

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: **City of Lafayette**

From: **Townsend Public Affairs**
Casey Elliott, Vice President

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: **Bill Analysis: Assembly Bill 712 (Wicks)**

The official text of AB 712 (Wicks) can be found here, AB 712 requires a majority vote for passage.

AB 712 (Wicks): Housing Reform Laws: Enforcement Actions: Fines and Penalties

Summary

AB 712 (Wicks) establishes additional financial penalties that must be imposed by a court in actions brought by an applicant for a housing development project against a public agency to enforce a "housing reform law."

Key provisions include:

- Grants prevailing housing development applicants the right to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs when enforcing housing reform laws against public agencies.
- Requires courts to impose fines on public agencies found to be in violation of housing reform laws, strengthening accountability measures.
- Prohibits public agencies from requiring applicants to indemnify, defend, or hold them harmless in legal actions related to violations of housing reform laws.
- Defines "housing reform law" as any law that provides protections for housing development applicants or places limitations on public agencies to benefit housing development projects.

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Status

AB 712 (Wicks) passed the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee on April 9 and is pending a hearing in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Author's Statement

Assembly Member Wicks has stated the following regarding AB 712, *"The Legislature has successfully passed a variety of housing laws to make it easier to build in California. However, these laws need to be enforceable, and have real consequences when they are broken. Some of our housing laws (notably the Housing Accountability Act) have strong enforcement provisions, but others do not. AB 712 would extend the enforcement provisions of the Housing Accountability Act to other state laws, thereby encouraging local agencies to act in compliance with existing state housing laws. Additionally, AB 712 would end the practice of public agencies asking housing development applicants to indemnify the local government against lawsuits when the local government violates the applicant's rights. This will result in more certainty for all parties, and more housing in California."*

Support and Opposition

AB 712 (Wicks) is sponsored by the California Building Industry Association, and includes support from Abundant Housing LA, BOMA California, California Apartment Association, California Association of Realtors, California Building Industry Association, California Business Properties Association, California YIMBY, Circulate San Diego, Housing Action Coalition, NAIOP California, SPUR, and The Two Hundred.

Opposition for AB 712 includes California Special Districts and is opposed unless amended by Livable California.

Recommended Position

Oppose

AB 712 (Wicks) can increase legal and financial exposure by mandating attorney's fees and fines when found in violation of housing reform laws—even in cases involving complex or good-faith planning decisions. The prohibition on indemnification requirements can further limit a local governments ability to manage risk, while the broad definition of "housing reform law" could create uncertainty and invite additional litigation. AB 712 limits local control over land use decisions and creates additional administrative challenges, particularly for smaller jurisdictions with limited resources and capacity.

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: **City of Lafayette**

From: **Townsend Public Affairs**
Casey Elliott, Vice President

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: **Bill Analysis: Senate Bill 90 (Seyarto)**

The official text of SB 90 (Seyarto) can be found here, SB 90 requires a majority vote for passage.

SB 90 (Seyarto): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Grants: Improvements to Public Evacuation Routes: Mobile Rigid Water Storage: Electrical Generators

Summary

SB 90 adds new eligible projects under the $10 billion Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act (Bond Act), allowing grants for public evacuation route improvements, mobile rigid dip tanks and prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, enhancements to fire engine and helicopter response capabilities, and backup electrical generators, as specified.

Key provisions include:

- Adds to the list of eligible project grants available for use as part of the $135 million described above to include improvements to public evacuation routes in very high or high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters.

- Defines “mobile rigid dip tank” to mean mobile rigid dip tank for storing water, retardant, or other firefighting material for the on-ground equipment or aerial refilling of firefighting helicopters.

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- Defines “mobile rigid water storage” to mean a mobile rigid water tank for storing water for refilling of ground equipment or helicopter dip tanks, or both, that is constructed of steel and is designed to be resistant to vandalism when left unattended and have an extended service life.

- Authorizes grants, in coordination with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), to local agencies, state agencies, special districts, JPAs, tribes, and nonprofit organizations for backup electrical generators for water reservoirs.

Status

SB 90 (Seyarto) passed the Senate Governmental Organization Committee on March 11, and is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Natural Resources Committee on April 22.

Author’s Statement

Senator Seyarto has stated the following regarding SB 90, *“SB 90 offers an innovative approach to water accessibility through mobile tanks that will dramatically improve our firefighting capabilities. In my experience as a fire chief with decades of experience fighting California wildfires, reducing helicopter refill times by even a few minutes can mean the difference between containing a fire and watching it spread out of control. The cost-effective nature of these mobile tanks, combined with their strategic positioning capabilities, makes this solution both practical and essential for protecting our communities from increasingly devastating wildfires.”*

Support and Opposition

Current support for SB 90 (Seyarto) includes the City of Sierra Madre (Co-source), Crescenta Valley Water District (Co-source), and PumpPodUSA.

There is no official opposition for SB 90.

Recommended Position

Support

SB 90 (Seyarto) provides much-needed funding for wildfire prevention, emergency preparedness, and water infrastructure improvements, including backup electrical generators for water reservoirs.

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: **City of Lafayette**

From: **Townsend Public Affairs**
Casey Elliott, Vice President

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: **Bill Analysis: Senate Bill 233 (Seyarto)**

The official text of SB 233 (Seyarto) can be found here, SB 233 requires a majority vote for passage.

SB 233 (Seyarto): Regional Housing Need: Determination: Consultation with Councils of Governments

Summary

SB 233 (Seyarto) requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), beginning in the seventh housing element cycle, to meet and consult with regional Councils of Government (COGs) regarding the Regional Housing Needs Determination (RHND) for that COG 38 months, rather than 26 months, prior to the due date for housing element revisions.

Key provisions include:

- Requires HCD, commencing with the seventh housing element cycle, to meet with COGs at least 38 months rather than 26 months prior to the housing element due date for jurisdictions within that COG.

- Delays the requirement for HCD to meet with COGs that have a seventh housing element revision due in 2028 or earlier until the eighth housing element cycle. Specifically, HCD is required to meet the following COGS 26 months before revisions for the seventh the housing element cycle is due for the following COGs:

    a) The Humboldt County Association of Governments.
    b) The Lake Area Planning Council.
    c) The Mendocino Council of Governments.
    d) The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments.

Status

SB 233 (Seyarto) passed the Senate Housing Committee on March 18, and is pending action on the Senate Floor.

Author's Statement

Senator Seyarto has stated the following regarding SB 233, *"California is currently in the midst of a crippling housing affordability crisis. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, in December 2024 monthly payments for a mid-tier home and bottom-tier home had increased by 84% and 88% respectively since January 2020. That is more than 5 times the rate of inflation. Consequently, polling done in September 2024 showed 56% of Californians have considered leaving the state due to high cost of living. Clearly, this affordability crisis demands the Legislature's immediate attention and urgent action. Over the last several years, California has aggressively expanded housing production goals as well as various mandates on local governments to achieve them. However, these local jurisdictions have seen little added support in complying with the state's new housing aspirations. SB 233 recognizes the myriad of recent changes to housing element requirements and seeks to help local government's better plan to meet our state's housing goals by requiring the state to provide regional need information 12 months earlier than current practice."*

Support

SB 233 (Seyarto) is supported by the Association of California Cities – Orange County

Opposition

SB 233 has no official opposition.

Recommended Position

Support

SB 233 provides important updates to the Planning and Zoning Law by extending timelines for consultation between the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and councils of governments. This adjustment will give stakeholders more time to engage in meaningful planning and analysis which will lead to more reasonable and achievable housing goals. These changes recognize the complexity of local planning and give jurisdictions more time to prepare and respond to state-mandated housing obligations.

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: **City of Lafayette**

From: **Townsend Public Affairs**
Casey Elliott, Vice President

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: **Bill Analysis: Senate Bill 607 (Wiener)**

The official text of SB 607 (Wiener) can be found here, SB 607 requires a majority vote for passage.

SB 607 (Wiener): California Environmental Quality Act: Categorical Exemptions: Infill Projects

Summary

SB 607 (Wiener) seeks to streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for infill housing developments by focusing environmental review on the specific factors that disqualify a project from a categorical exemption. SB 607 aims to reduce delays for qualified urban projects while maintaining oversight where environmental impacts are most relevant. It excludes certain project types—such as distribution centers and oil and gas infrastructure—from eligibility.

Key provisions include:

- Limiting CEQA review to the single disqualifying environmental issue when a project is nearly exempt.
- Updating definitions for “negative declaration” and “mitigated negative declaration” to reflect evidentiary standards.
- Requiring the state to identify eligible infill sites and revise exemption guidelines by July 1, 2026.
- Narrowing the scope of litigation records by excluding certain internal agency communications.

Status

SB 607 (Wiener) is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Environmental Committee on April 23.

Support and Opposition

As the committee analysis for the measure has not yet been published, there is no official list of support or opposition for SB 607 yet available.

Recommended Position

Watch

This bill facilities the production of infill housing by streamlining the CEQA process. However, it could reduce local agencies' ability to conduct broader environmental evaluations. The legislation committee recommends a Watch position at this time and will return to the City Council after a more thorough analysis is conducted.

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City of Lafayette Priority Bill Matrix

4/10/2025

AB 1 | **Connolly (D)** | HTML | PDF

Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.

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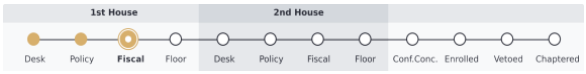

Bill information

Summary: Current Department of Insurance regulations prohibit an insurer from using a rating plan that does not take into account and reflect specified wildfire risk mitigation, including property-level building hardening measures. This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2030, and every 5 years thereafter, to consider whether or not to update its regulations to include additional building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs. As part of this consideration, the bill would require the department to consult with specified agencies to identify additional building hardening measures to consider, as well as to develop and implement a public participation process during the evaluation. (Based on 12/02/2024 text)

Location: 04/02/2025 - Assembly APPR.

AB 69 | **Calderon (D)** | HTML | PDF

FAIR Plan policy renewals.

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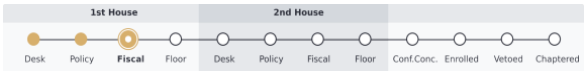

Bill information

Summary: The California FAIR Plan Association is a joint reinsurance association in which all insurers licensed to write basic property insurance participate to administer a program for the equitable apportionment of basic property insurance for persons who are unable to obtain that coverage through normal channels. Current law requires the association to implement programs to help reduce the number of existing FAIR Plan policies. This bill would require a broker of record to determine if a FAIR Plan policy can be moved to a voluntary market insurance company before the policy is renewed. (Based on 12/10/2024 text)

Location: 04/02/2025 - Assembly APPR.

AB 232 | **Calderon (D)** | HTML | PDF

Natural disasters: catastrophe savings accounts: personal income tax.

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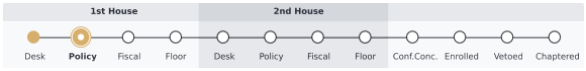

Bill information

Calendar: 04/21/25 A-REVENUE AND TAXATION 2:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126 GIPSON, MIKE, Chair

Summary: Would, until January 1, 2030, authorize a homeowner to establish one catastrophe savings account that, among other things, has the specified purpose of covering the amount of insurance deductibles and other uninsured portions of risks of loss from wildfire, flood, or earthquake. The bill would require distributions from a catastrophe savings account to be used to cover qualified catastrophe expenses, defined as expenses paid or incurred due to damage to or loss of a homeowner's primary residence caused by a wildfire, flood, or earthquake that has been declared by the Governor to be an emergency. The bill would impose penalties on homeowners who use a distribution to cover an expense other than a qualified catastrophe expense, unless specified exceptions apply. The bill would require the penalty to be determined and collected by the Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation, and deposited in the Financial Protection Fund. (Based on 01/13/2025 text)

Location: 03/03/2025 - Assembly REV. & TAX

AB 234 | **Calderon (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

California FAIR Plan Association governing committee.

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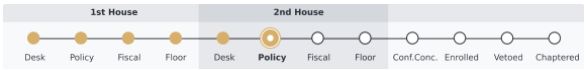

Bill information

Summary: The California FAIR Plan Association is a joint reinsurance association in which all insurers licensed to write basic property insurance participate to administer a program for the equitable apportionment of basic property insurance for persons who are unable to obtain that coverage through normal channels. Current law establishes a governing committee for the association and prescribes its membership. This bill would require the Speaker of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Rules to serve as nonvoting, ex officio members of the governing committee, and would authorize each to name a designee to serve in their place. (Based on 01/13/2025 text)

Location: 04/07/2025 - Senate RLS.

AB 259 | **Rubio, Blanca (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

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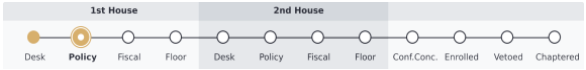

Bill information

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing, as specified, and requires a legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing to comply with specified requirements, including that the local agency post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing if,

during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, and the legislative body complies with prescribed requirements. Current law requires a member to satisfy specified requirements to participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including that specified circumstances apply. Current law establishes limits on the number of meetings a member may participate in solely by teleconference from a remote location pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including prohibiting such participation for more than 2 meetings per year if the legislative body regularly meets once per month or less. This bill would remove the January 1, 2026, date from those provisions, thereby extending the alternative teleconferencing procedures indefinitely. (Based on 01/16/2025 text)

Location: 02/10/2025 - Assembly L. GOV.

AB 261 | **Quirk-Silva (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Fire safety: fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal.

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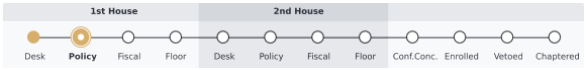

Bill information

Summary: Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to periodically review designated and rated zones and, as necessary, revise zones or their ratings or repeal the designation of zones. Current law also requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state that are not state responsibility areas as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas, and to periodically review and make recommendations relative to very high fire hazard severity zones. This bill would, as applied to both state responsibility areas and lands that are not state responsibility areas, authorize the State Fire Marshal, in periods between the State Fire Marshal's review of areas of the state for recommendations regarding an area's fire hazard severity zone, to confer with entities, including, but not limited to, public agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations, project applicants, and members of the public, on actions that may impact the degree of fire hazard in an area or the area's recommended fire hazard severity zone designation. The bill would authorize the State Fire Marshal to provide a written response to an entity on actions that may impact the degree of fire hazard, and would require this written response to be posted on the State Fire Marshal's internet website. (Based on 03/26/2025 text)

Location: 03/27/2025 - Assembly EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Last Amend: 03/26/2025

AB 300 | **Lackey (R)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal.

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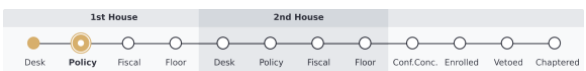

Bill information

Summary: Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to classify lands within state responsibility areas into fire hazard severity zones, and, by regulation, to designate fire hazard severity zones and assign to each zone a rating reflecting the degree of severity of fire

hazard that is expected to prevail in the zone. Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to periodically review very high fire hazard severity zones that are not state responsibility areas, and designated and rated zones that are state responsibility areas, as provided. This bill would instead require the State Fire Marshall to do the above-described classification and review of lands within state responsibility areas as fire hazard severity zones, and identification and review of areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones, as specified, at lease once every 8 years. (Based on 03/26/2025 text)

Location:	03/27/2025 - Assembly EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	**Last Amend:**	03/26/2025

AB 306 | **Schultz (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Building regulations: state building standards.

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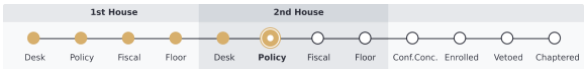

Bill information

Summary: Current law establishes the Department of Housing and Community Development (department) in the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency. The California Building Standards Law establishes the California Building Standards Commission (commission) within the Department of General Services. Current law requires the commission to approve and adopt building standards and to codify those standards in the California Building Standards Code (code). The State Housing Law establishes statewide construction and occupancy standards for buildings used for human habitation. Current law requires, among other things, the building standards adopted and submitted by the department for approval by the commission, as specified, to be adopted by reference, with certain exceptions. Current law authorizes any city or county to make changes in those building standards that are published in the code, including to green building standards. Current law requires the governing body of a city or county, before making modifications or changes to those green building standards, to make an express finding that those modifications or changes are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. This bill would, from June 1, 2025, until June 1, 2031, inclusive, prohibit a city or county from making changes that are applicable to residential units to the above-described building standards unless a certain condition is met, including that the commission deems those changes or modifications necessary as emergency standards to protect health and safety. (Based on 03/12/2025 text)

Location:	04/02/2025 - Senate RLS.	**Last Amend:**	03/12/2025

AB 307 | **Petrie-Norris (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: fire camera mapping system.

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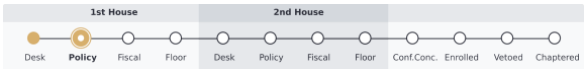

Bill information

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of $10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate

solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. Of these funds, the act makes available $1,500,000,000, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for wildfire prevention, including, among other things, by making $25,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for technologies that improve detection and assessment of new fire ignitions. This bill would require, of the $25,000,000 made available to the department, $10,000,000 be allocated for purposes of the ALERTCalifornia fire camera mapping system. (Based on 01/23/2025 text)

Location: 02/10/2025 - Assembly NAT. RES.

AB 394 | **Wilson (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Public transportation providers.

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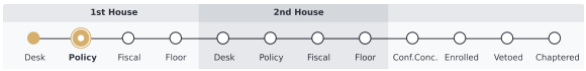

Bill information

Summary: Current law provides that when a battery is committed against the person of an operator, driver, or passenger on a bus, taxicab, streetcar, cable car, trackless trolley, or other motor vehicle, as specified, and the person who commits the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is engaged in the performance of their duties, the penalty is imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, a fine not exceeding $10,000, or both the fine and imprisonment. Current law also provides that if the victim is injured, the offense would be punished by a fine not exceeding $10,000, by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year or in the state prison for 16 months, 2, or 3 years, or by both that fine and imprisonment. This bill would expand this crime to include stalking against any of those persons and would also have the crime apply when it occurs against an employee, public transportation provider, or contractor of a public transportation provider. By expanding the scope of an existing crime and creating a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (Based on 03/27/2025 text)

Location: 04/02/2025 - Assembly JUD. **Last Amend:** 03/27/2025

AB 404 | **Sanchez (R)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects.

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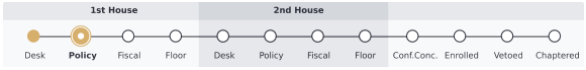

Bill information

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. Current law, until January 1, 2028, except for the issuance of a permit or other permit approval, exempts from the requirements of CEQA prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or related activities, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 meeting certain requirements. Current law requires a lead agency, if it determines that a project qualifies for the above exemption and it determines to

approve or carry out the project, to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and with the county clerk in the county in which the project will be located and to post the notice of exemption on its internet website together with a description of where the documents analyzing the environmental impacts of the project under the federal act are available for review. Current law requires the lead agency, if it is not the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to provide the notice of exemption and certain information to the department. This bill would extend the above exemption and requirements on the lead agency indefinitely. (Based on 02/04/2025 text)

Location:	02/18/2025 - Assembly NAT. RES.

AB 442 | **Hadwick (R)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, thinning, and fuel reduction projects.

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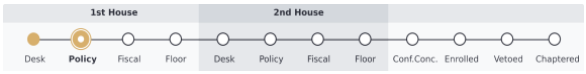

Bill information

Summary:	The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exempts from its requirements prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, and certain related activities, undertaken in whole or in part on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire, if those projects and activities meet certain requirements. This bill would exempt from CEQA prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken within a community with a single ingress and egress evacuation route. (Based on 02/06/2025 text)
Location:	02/18/2025 - Assembly NAT. RES.

AB 712 | **Wicks (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Housing reform laws: enforcement actions: fines and penalties.

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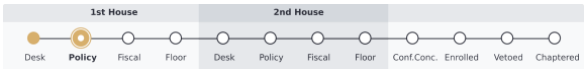

Bill information

Summary:	Current law within the Planning and Zoning Law describes various reforms and incentives enacted by the Legislature to facilitate and expedite the construction of affordable housing. Current law within the Planning and Zoning Law, in certain civil actions or proceedings against a public entity that has issued specified approvals for a housing development, authorizes a court to award all reasonably incurred costs of suit to a prevailing public entity or nonprofit housing corporation that is a real party in interest and the permit applicant of the low- or moderate-income housing if the court makes specified findings. This bill, where the applicant for a housing development is a prevailing party in an action brought by the applicant to enforce a housing reform law against a public agency, would entitle an applicant for a housing development project to reasonable attorney's fees and costs and would require a court to impose fines on a local agency, as specified. The bill would prohibit a public agency from requiring the applicant to indemnify, defend, or hold harmless the public agency in any action alleging the public agency violated the applicant's rights or deprived the applicant of the benefits or protection provide by a housing reform law. (Based on 03/10/2025 text)

Location:	04/09/2025 - Assembly JUD.	**Last Amend:**	03/10/2025

AB 888 | **Calderon (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

California Safe Homes grant program.

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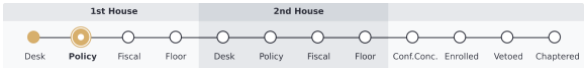

Bill information

Calendar: *04/30/25 A-INSURANCE SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS 9:30 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 126 CALDERON, LISA, Chair*

Summary: Current law creates the Department of Insurance, headed by the Insurance Commissioner, and prescribes the department's powers and duties. Current law directs the department and commissioner to administer various grant programs that, among other things, defray property retrofitting costs. Current law requires an insurer doing business in this state to pay an annual tax based on the amount of gross premiums the insurer received during that year. This bill would establish the California Safe Homes grant program to be developed by the department to reduce local and statewide wildfire losses, among other things. The bill would require the department to prioritize specified needs when awarding grant funds, and would require eligible program applicants, which would include individuals, cities, counties, and special districts, to meet specified criteria. The bill would establish the Sustainable Insurance Account within the Insurance Fund, which would be continuously appropriated to fund the program. The bill would require 40% of the amount of the gross premiums tax collected from property and casualty insurance above the amount collected from those insurers in 2023 to be deposited into the account. (Based on 02/19/2025 text)

Location:	03/10/2025 - Assembly INS.		

AB 1455 | **Bryan (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

California Environmental Quality Act: certified regulatory program: State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection: ember-resistant zone.

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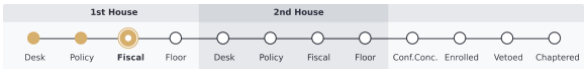

Bill information

Summary: This bill would require the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt regulations to implement defensible space requirements for an ember-resistant zone required within 5 feet of a structure in a state responsibility area and a very high fire hazard severity zone, as specified. The bill would require the regulations to follow a specified rulemaking process and be adopted as emergency regulations. The bill would require the Office of Administrative Law to consider the adoption of initial regulations as necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare. The bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to verify the regulations as a certified regulatory program for purposes of CEQA, as specified. (Based on 03/24/2025 text)

Location:	04/07/2025 - Assembly APPR.	**Last Amend:**	03/24/2025

AB 1456 | **Bryan (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

California Environmental Quality Act: vegetation fuel management project exemption.

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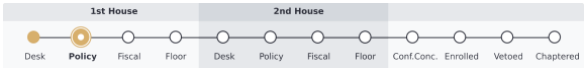

Bill information

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.This bill would exempt from CEQA a vegetation fuel management project, as defined, undertaken or funded by a public agency, or the adoption of an ordinance requiring the implementation of a vegetation fuel management project. The bill would require a lead agency that determines to carry out or approve an activity that is within the exemption to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. (Based on 02/21/2025 text)

Location: 03/13/2025 - Assembly NAT. RES.

SB 63 | **Wiener (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

San Francisco Bay area: local revenue measure: transportation funding.

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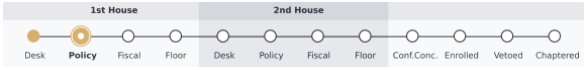

Bill information

Calendar: *04/22/25 S-TRANSPORTATION 1:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 CORTESE, DAVE, Chair*

Summary: Would establish the Transportation Revenue Measure District with jurisdiction extending throughout the boundaries of the Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa and the City and County of San Francisco and would require the district to be governed by the same board that governs the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. The bill would authorize a retail transactions and use tax applicable to the entire district to be imposed by the board of the district or by a qualified voter initiative for a duration of 10 to 15 years, inclusive, and generally in an amount of 0.5%, subject to voter approval at the November 3, 2026, statewide general election. After allocations are made for various administrative expenses, the bill would require an unspecified portion of the proceeds of the tax to be allocated by the commission to initiatives included in a specified commission plan and to the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, the Peninsula Rail Transit District, commonly known as Caltrain, the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for operating expenses, and would require the remaining proceeds to be subvened directly to the counties comprising the district for public transportation expenses, as prescribed. (Based on 03/25/2025 text)

Location: 04/02/2025 - Senate TRANS. **Last Amend:** 03/25/2025

SB 79 | **Wiener (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Local government land: public transit use: housing development: transit-oriented development.

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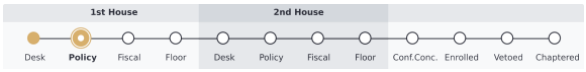

Bill information

Calendar: *04/22/25 S-HOUSING 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 WAHAB, AISHA, Chair*

Summary: Current law prescribes requirements for the disposal of surplus land by a local agency. Current law defines “surplus land” for these purposes to mean land owned in fee simple by any local agency for which the local agency’s governing body takes formal action declaring that the land is surplus and is not necessary for the agency’s use. Current law defines “agency’s use” for these purposes to include land that is being used for agency work or operations, as provided. Current law exempts from this definition of “agency’s use” certain commercial or industrial uses, except that in the case of a local agency that is a district, except a local agency whose primary purpose or mission is to supply the public with a transportation system, “agency’s use” may include commercial or industrial uses or activities, as specified. This bill would additionally include land leased to support public transit operations in the definition of “agency’s use,” as described above. (Based on 04/09/2025 text)

Location:	03/12/2025 - Senate HOUSING	**Last Amend:**	04/09/2025

SB 90 | **Seyarto (R)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: grants: improvements to public evacuation routes: mobile rigid water storage: electrical generators.

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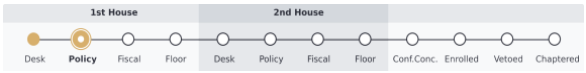

Bill information

Calendar: 04/22/25 S-NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 113 LIMÓN, MONIQUE, Chair

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of $10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. The act makes $135,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program to provide, among other things, loans, direct assistance, and matching funds for projects that prevent wildfires, increase resilience, maintain existing wildfire risk reduction projects, reduce the risk of wildfires to communities, or increase home or community hardening. The act provides that eligible projects include, but are not limited to, grants to local agencies, state agencies, joint powers authorities, tribes, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, and nonprofit organizations for structure hardening of critical community infrastructure, wildfire smoke mitigation, evacuation centers, including community clean air centers, structure hardening projects that reduce the risk of wildfire for entire neighborhoods and communities, water delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes for communities in very high or high fire hazard areas, wildfire buffers, and incentives to remove structures that significantly increase hazard risk. This bill would include in the list of eligible projects grants to the above-mentioned entities for improvements to public evacuation routes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks, as defined, to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, as defined, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters. (Based on 03/12/2025 text)

Location:	03/11/2025 - Senate N.R. & W.	**Last Amend:**	03/12/2025

SB 227 | **Grayson (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Green Empowerment Zone for the Northern Waterfront area of the County of Contra Costa.

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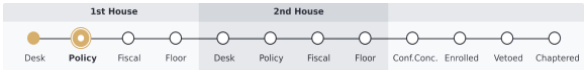

Bill information

Calendar: 05/07/25 S-LOCAL GOVERNMENT 9:30 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 DURAZO, MARÍA ELENA, Chair

Summary: Current law, until January 1, 2028, authorizes the establishment of a Green Empowerment Zone for the Northern Waterfront area of the County of Contra Costa for the purpose of building upon the comparative advantage provided by the regional concentration of highly skilled energy industry workers by prioritizing access to tax incentives, grants, and loan programs, among other incentives. Current law authorizes the Green Empowerment Zone to be composed of 9 specified cities and the County of Contra Costa, upon adoption of a resolution by the city or county, and provides for the Green Empowerment Zone to be governed by a board of directors comprised of representatives from 7 stakeholder groups, as specified. Current law requires the board to appoint a steering committee, and required the steering committee, on or before January 1, 2023, to develop metrics to be reported to the Legislature and state departments and agencies to gauge the progress of the Green Empowerment Zone, as specified. Current law requires the Green Empowerment Zone to annually post information on those metrics on its internet website, as specified. This bill would extend the authorization for the Green Empowerment Zone to January 1, 2040, and would authorize the expansion of the Green Empowerment Zone to include 4 additional cities, including the Cities of El Cerrito, Pinole, Richmond, and San Pablo, upon adoption of a resolution by each city. The bill would make changes to the stakeholder groups who serve on the board of directors, including increasing the number of stakeholder groups to 8 by adding a category for 7 directors who live or work in the Green Empowerment Zone and who represent environmental or environmental justice organizations or interests. (Based on 04/09/2025 text)

Location:	04/07/2025 - Senate L. GOV.	**Last Amend:**	04/09/2025

SB 260 | **Wahab (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Unmanned aircraft.

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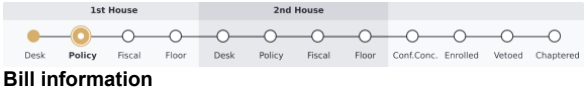

Bill information

Summary: Current law requires a home protection company that requires an onsite inspection as a prequalification for the issuance of a home protection contract to offer a report on the inspection, as specified. This bill would prohibit an onsite inspection of a home conducted by a remotely operated unmanned aircraft from constituting sufficient evidence for the termination of a home protection contract, unless the findings of the inspection are corroborated, as specified. The bill would require a home protection company intending to inspect a property using an unmanned aircraft to notify the issue of a home protection contract no less than 14 calendar days prior to the inspection, and would prohibit an inspection conducted using an unmanned aircraft without the above-described notice from constituting sufficient reason to modify or terminate the contract. (Based on 04/03/2025 text)

Location:	04/01/2025 - Senate INS.	**Last Amend:**	04/03/2025

SB 456 | **Ashby (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Contractors: exemptions: muralists.

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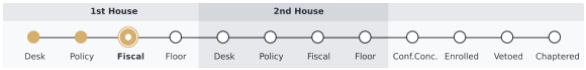

Bill information

Calendar: *04/21/25 S-APPROPRIATIONS 10:30 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair*

Summary: Current law makes it a misdemeanor for a person to engage in the business, or act in the capacity, of a contractor without a license, unless exempted. Current law exempts from the Contractors State License Law, among other things, a nonprofit corporation providing assistance to an owner, as specified. This bill would exempt from that law an artist who draws, paints, applies, executes, restores, or conserves a mural, as defined, pursuant to an agreement with a person who could legally authorize the work. (Based on 04/02/2025 text)

Location:	04/07/2025 - Senate APPR.	**Last Amend:**	04/02/2025

SB 607 | **Wiener (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

California Environmental Quality Act: categorical exemptions: infill projects.

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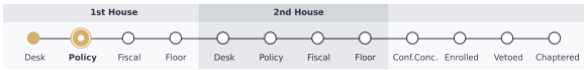

Bill information

Calendar: 04/23/25 S-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 BLAKESPEAR, CATHERINE, Chair
04/30/25 S-LOCAL GOVERNMENT 9:30 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 DURAZO, MARÍA ELENA, Chair

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report (EIR) on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. Existing law defines “negative declaration” and “mitigated negative declaration” for these purposes.This bill would revise the definition of negative declaration to mean a written statement briefly describing the substantial evidence in the record that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, as specified. The bill would also revise the definition of mitigated negative declaration to mean that revisions would avoid or mitigate the effects on the environment, as determined by the public agency based upon substantial evidence in the record, as specified, and that there is substantial evidence that the project as revised will not have a significant effect on the environment, as provided. (Based on 03/24/2025 text)

Location:	03/05/2025 - Senate E.Q.	**Last Amend:**	03/24/2025

SB 629 | **Durazo (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Wildfires: fire hazard severity zones: defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel modification enforcement.

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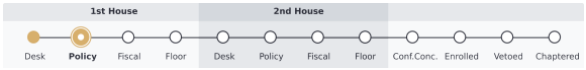

Bill information

Calendar: *04/22/25 S-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION 9 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 PADILLA, STEPHEN, Chair*

Summary: Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas of the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on specified criteria. Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to periodically review the areas in the state identified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as specified. Current law requires a local agency, within 30 days after receiving a receiving a transmittal from the State Fire Marshal that identifies those fire hazard severity zones, to make the information available for public review and comment, and to present the information in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps. Current law requires a person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains an occupied dwelling or structure in a very high fire hazard severity zone to take certain fire risk management measures, including maintaining defensible space of 100 feet from each side of the structure, except as provided. Current law requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop a model defensible space program, as provided, that includes, but is not limited to, specified components, including enforcement mechanisms for compliance with and maintenance of defensible space requirements. Current law includes among these enforcement mechanisms, among other things, site inspections. This bill would require the factors on which the fire severity zones are based to include areas within the perimeter of a wildfire that burned 1,000 or more acres, destroyed more than 10 structures, or resulted in a fatality, and to include areas at risk for an urban conflagration that accounts for the potential for structures to serve as a fuel source that extends the ember cast outside of wildland areas. (Based on 03/26/2025 text)

Location:	04/02/2025 - Senate G.O.	**Last Amend:**	03/26/2025

SB 677 | **Wiener (D)** | **HTML** | **PDF**

Housing development: streamlined approvals.

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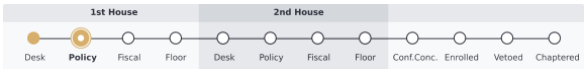

Bill information

Calendar: *04/22/25 S-HOUSING 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 WAHAB, AISHA, Chair*

Summary: The Planning and Zoning Law requires a proposed housing development containing no more than 2 residential units within a single-family residential zone to be considered ministerially, without discretionary review or hearing, if the proposed housing development meets certain requirements. This bill would require ministerial approval for proposed housing developments containing no more than 2 residential units on any lot hosting a single-family home or zoned for 4 or fewer residential units, notwithstanding any covenant, condition, or restriction imposed by a common interest development association. (Based on 04/09/2025 text)

Location:	03/05/2025 - Senate HOUSING	**Last Amend:**	04/09/2025